

environmental standards. Our watchword in writing this bill has been to provide greater flexibility in return for greater accountability.

In moving in this direction, we are following the recommendations of a variety of recent reports, including the Enterprise for the Environment, headed up by former EPA Administrator Bill Ruckelshaus; the President's Council on Sustainable Development, the Aspen Institute and the National Academy of Public Administration. We need to allow and encourage more experimentation to see if innovative approaches to regulation will produce the desired results. Our incremental bill will do just that.

Mr. Speaker, we are introducing this bill today to spark discussion on this approach to environmental policy, which we think should be at the heart of moderate environmental reform. But we still have much work to do. The bill still needs both technical and substantive work, and we do not intend to move it forward in its current form. Rather, we plan to introduce a refined version early in the next session after more meetings with experts on all sides of the environmental debate. But we think the bill in its current form does indicate the basic shape and principles of the bill that we will move forward.

This bill should be of interest to anyone who wants to ensure that we will continue to work to make our environmental protection system as effective and efficient as possible. We encourage anyone interested to comment on this version of the bill, so that we can take those concerns into consideration as we work on the version we will introduce next session.

**TRIBUTE TO THE FOX CHAPEL  
HIGH SCHOOL HONORING THEIR  
RECOGNITION AS A 1999 NEW  
AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL NA-  
TIONAL SHOWCASE SITE**

**HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 18, 1999*

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Fox Chapel Area High School as they have been selected by U.S. Department of Education and The National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) as a 1999 New American High School (NAHS) national showcase site.

Fox Chapel Area High School is one of only 13 schools across the country that were recognized for setting a new standard of excellence for all students. They have earned this national recognition through the success of their school improvement efforts and the commitment of the school staff and community to high levels of student achievement.

Specifically, Fox Chapel Area High School has been recognized for the following: an attendance rate of 96 percent; an average Scholastic Aptitude Test score of 1091, which exceeds state and national averages; an enrollment of 47 percent of juniors and seniors in Advanced Placement classes; and an eligibility rate of 86 percent of those students who took the Advanced Placement exams and scored high enough to obtain college credit.

In the school year 1992-93, Fox Chapel Area High School received the honorable des-

ignation as a Blue Ribbon Secondary School of Excellence for displaying outstanding effectiveness in meeting local, state, and national educational goals. Receiving the honor of being named a 1999 New American High Schools national showcase site further demonstrates the overall commitment by the staff, parents and community to ensure that all students meet challenging academic standards and are well prepared for college, careers, and life.

Congratulations Fox Chapel Area High School. I wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors to continually improve upon the quality of the education of our youth.

**INTRODUCTION OF STEWARDSHIP  
EDUCATION, RECREATION, AND  
VOLUNTEERS FOR THE ENVIRON-  
MENT ("SERVE") ACT OF 1999**

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 18, 1999*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, together with my colleague and cousin, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, I am introducing a bill to encourage greater cooperation between the public—especially young people—and the federal government to enhance the stewardship of the natural and cultural resources of the federal lands and the recreational, educational, and other experiences they provide for so many people.

The bill is called the Stewardship Education, Recreation, and Volunteers for the Environment Act—the "SERVE Act" for short.

Mr. Speaker, this bill reflects the joint effort of my office and that of my cousin and colleague, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. It is truly a Udall-Udall bill, and it's only at my cousin's suggestion that my name is listed first—for once, I decided to accept one of his ideas.

Mr. Speaker, the lands that belong to the American people—the National Parks, national forests, wildlife refuges, recreation areas, and the lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management—are enjoyed by literally millions upon million of visitors each year. People visit them for sightseeing, wildlife watching, hunting, fishing, hiking, and camping opportunities.

In Colorado alone visitors can experience a wide range of outdoor recreation and education opportunities. From the isolated tundra and towering peaks of Rocky Mountain National Park to the city-surrounded greenery of the Two Ponds National Wildlife Refuge, to the sparkling mesas and sandstone arches of BLM lands on the western slope and all the wonderful areas in between, we are blessed with an incomparable heritage that we gladly share with people from across the country and around the world.

But the visitors often don't realize how much they owe to the efforts of the many volunteers who have selflessly given their time and expertise to help the professional personnel of the land-managing agencies. Without the hard work, dedication and enthusiasm of these volunteers, it would be impossible for the Federal agencies to come as close as they do to meet the demands for adequate maintenance and sound management of these lands.

We think it's in the national interest to properly recognize their contributions, and our bill is intended to do that. It's also intended to provide greater authority for the land-managing agencies to cooperate with volunteers, and to encourage those agencies to reach out to young people to help them learn about the resources and values of the federal lands as well as about the importance of proper stewardship of those resources and values and the opportunities for careers with agencies concerned with the management of natural or cultural resources.

There were some efforts along these lines in the past. Some of the land-managing agencies have been given authority to recruit and recognize individuals who donated their energy, time and expertise to enhance our federal and public lands for all Americans to enjoy. However, there is more that can and should be done.

Our bill would direct the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to establish a national stewardship award program to recognize and honor individuals, organizations and communities who have distinguished themselves by volunteering their time, energy and commitment to enhancing the Nation's parks, forest refuges and other public lands.

As a minimum, the program would include a system of special passes for free admission to and use of federal lands that would be awarded to recognize volunteers for their contributions.

The bill would also encourage an attitude of stewardship and responsibility towards public lands by promoting the participation of individuals, organizations and communities in developing and fostering a conservation ethic towards the lands, facilities and the natural and cultural resources. Specifically, it calls on the Federal land managing agencies to enter into cooperative agreement with academic institutions, State or local government agencies or any partnership organization. In addition, the Secretaries would be enabled to provide matching funds to match non-Federal funds, services or materials donated under the cooperative agreement.

Further, the bill encourages each Federal land management agency to cooperate with States, local school districts and other entities to (1) promote participation by students and other young people in volunteer programs of the Federal land management agencies, (2) promote a greater understanding of our Nation's natural and cultural resources, and (3) to provide information and assistance to other agencies and organizations concerned with the wise use and management of our Nation's natural and cultural resources.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have this opportunity to extend my own appreciation to the federal land managing agencies and the many volunteers who assist them. The point of this bill is to extend that recognition on a formal and national basis, and to build on the sound foundation that they have laid. I hope we can send it to the President for signing into law soon after we reconvene next year.